

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THESSA 00815 051715Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CU-02 /059 W
----- 092791

O 051545Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2178

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: NORTHERN GREECE ON EVE OF REFERENDUM

REF: (A) THESSALONIKI 784, (B) THESSALONIKI 804,
(C) ATHENS 8596

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH CAMPAIGN FOR DECEMBER 8 REFERENDUM HAS BEEN MET WITH CONSIDERABLE APATHY HERE COMPARED TO PRECEDING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, ROYALIST SUPPORTERS HAVE GAINED SOME MOMENTUM IN PAST WEEK AFTER VERY SLOW START. LOCAL OBSERVERS ESTIMATE THAT SUPPORT FOR KING IS SOMEWHAT STRONGER IN NORTHERN GREECE THAN IN BALANCE OF COUNTRY AND NOW PREDICT ROYALIST VOTE RANGING UPWARDS OF THIRTY PERCENT. UNCERTAINTY OF MAKARIOS RETURN TO CYPRUS PRIOR TO REFERENDUM AND POSSIBLE EFFECT ON VOTE IS CITED BY MANY HERE AS UNKNOWN VARIABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTIVITIES OF PRO AND ANTI-ROYALIST FACTIONS INTENSIFIED DURING PAST WEEK WITH PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTION AND DAILY SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCES IN THESSALONIKI AND PROVINCIAL CENTERS. THERE STILL LITTLE EVIDENCE OF RUMORED HEAVY SPENDING FOR KING AND, BY CONTRAST, ANTI-ROYALIST GROUPS APPEAR BETTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THESSA 00815 051715Z

ORGANIZED AND FINANCED. LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED BY LATTER

SUBSTANTIALLY OUTNUMBER PRO-KING MATERIALS. ANTI-MONARCHY FORCES ALSO INCLUDE CONSIDERABLY MORE PRESTIGIOUS FIGURES FROM UNIVERSITY, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS. LOCAL CU, PASOK AND KKE COMMITTEES CONTINUE ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO KING'S RETURN. CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" HAS VOICED INDIRECT SUPPORT FOR CONSTANTINE AND LIBERAL "MAKEDONIA" HAS FAILED TO TAKE DEFINITIVE STAND, FOR WHICH OWNER VELLIDES WIDELY CRITICIZED BY READERS.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF CAMPAIGN OVER PAST WEEK WERE SPEECHES IN THESSALONIKI DECEMBER 1 BY CU DEPUTY MANGAKIS AND IN KAVALA DECEMBER 4 BY CU MP PROTOPAPPAS. SCHEDULED PAPANDREOU APPEARANCE HERE DECEMBER 4 CANCELLED BECAUSE OF OLYMPIC AIRLINES STRIKE. ANTI-ROYALIST GATHERINGS ALSO REPORTED AT KOZANI, PTOLEMAIS, FLORINA, KATERINI, CHALKIDIKI, DRAMA AND KILKIS. UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY FACULTY DECEMBER 2 EXPRESSED INDIRECT SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENTIAL DEMOCRACY AND BOTH RECTOR MOLIoTIS AND VICE-RECTOR ANASTASIADES SIGNED PROCLAMATION AGAINST KING.

4. ANTI-KING STUDENT ELEMENTS NOT ONLY DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE BUT ZEALOUSLY DESTROYING ROYALIST POSTERS AND HANDBILLS. AT GOUMENISA NEAR YUGO BORDER, WHERE RESIDENTS REPORTED TO CONGEN "100 PERCENT" BACKING FOR CONSTANTINE DECEMBER 1, THESSALONIKI STUDENTS HAD BEEN BUSSED IN NOVEMBER 30 TO DEFACE ROYALIST POSTERS. THROUGHOUT THESSALONIKI DECEMBER 5, APPARENT FOES OF KING PAINTED KKE INITIALS AND HAMMER AND SICKLE UNDER SLOGAN "NO TO JUNTAIST CONSTANTINE", ALTHOUGH SOME SUSPECT ACTION WAS ROYALIST PLOY TO SCARE FENCE SITTERS INTO VOTE FOR PRESUMED STABILITY OF MONARCHY.

5. APART FROM ACTIVITIES OF GROUPS ABOVE, CAMPAIGNS HAVE GENERATED REMARKABLY LITTLE PUBLIC INTEREST, PARTICULARLY IN OUTLYING PROVINCES. NOMARCHY DIRECTOR IN EDESSA, FOR INSTANCE, TOLD CONGEN DEC 4 THAT LITTLE EXCITEMENT OVER REFERENDUM HAD BEEN WHIPPED UP IN NOMOS (PELLA) DESPITE ACTIVE HEADQUARTERS FOR BOTH CROWN AND PRESIDENTIAL DEMOCRACIES IN CITY. CAMPAIGNING EVIDENT IN MANY POSTERS ALONG STREETS, WITH LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE BEARING KING'S PICTURE TORN OR DEFACED. ROYALIST SUPPORT BELIEVED WEAKEST

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THESSA 00815 051715Z

IN THESSALONIKI AND KAVALA WITH GREATEST STRENGTH IN WESTERN MACEDONIA, INCLUDING FLORINA, KOZANI AND KASTORIA. KING'S SUPPORT ALSO LESS AMONG REFUGEE POPULATIONS OF EASTERN MACEDONIA AND WESTERN THRACE, WHO REMAIN STRONGLY VENEZELIST AND ANI-ROYALIST AS RESULT OF 1922 ASIA MINOR DEBACLE, ALTHOUGH MOSLEM MINORITY IN THRACE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT HIM. A NUMBER OF LOCAL POLICE AND ARMY OFFICIALS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE EXPRESSED PRIVATE SYMPATHY FOR CONSTANTINE. (LOCAL

"C" CORPS COMMANDER LT. GEN. GRATZIOS IS EX-AIDE TO KING PAUL AND REPORTED TO STILL BE STAUNCH ROYALIST.)

6. OVERALL, LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT PERCENTAGE OF ROYALIST VOTE IN NORTHERN GREECE WILL BE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN IN REST OF COUNTRY. LOCAL CAMPAIGN FOR CONSTANTINE HAS DEFINITELY GAINED SOME MOMENTUM SINCE REF (A), AND OBSERVERS GENERALLY PREDICTING ROYALIST VOTE UPWARDS OF THIRTY PERCENT, ALTHOUGH MOST VERY SKEPTICAL OF VICTORY FOR KING. LAST MINUTE FACTORS CONSIDERED LIKELY TO INFLUENCE VOTE ARE FINAL TELEVISION APPEAL BY KING DECEMBER 6 AND POSSIBLE RETURN OF MAKARIOS TO CYPRUS PRIOR TO REFERENDUM. AS NOTED REF (B), LATTER LINKED BY LOCAL OBSERVERS TO OUTCOME ON THEORY THAT NEW UNREST ON ISLAND WOULD BUTTRESS CLAIM THAT KING REPRESENTS FALL-BACK ELEMENT OF STABILITY. PREPARATIONS HERE FOR DECEMBER 8 VOTE MORE RELAXED THAN BEFORE NOVEMBER 17, ALTHOUGH SOME RESIDENTS UNEASY THAT SCATTERED INCIDENTS MAY OCCUR AT POLLS.
BRENNAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REFERENDUMS, MONARCHY, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THESSA00815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740353-0374
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741256/aaaabwed.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) THESSALONIKI 784, (B) THESSALONI, KI 804
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHERN GREECE ON EVE OF REFERENDUM
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005